

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10, 12-17 and 36-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Griffiths et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,016). Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12,-13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffiths et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,016). Claims 36-38 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 7, 14, and 17. Claims 7, 14, and 17 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 18-35 have been canceled. Claims 7, 14, 17, 36 and 37 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 7, 14, and 17 can be found in the claims as originally filed. More specifically, claims 7, 14, and 17 were rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Support for “introducing” can be found throughout the specification. For example, support can be found at page 13, lines 1-3. Claim 36 and 37 were amended for improved clarity and consistency of claim language. The amendment to claim 37 can be found throughout the specification. For example, support can be found at page 4, third full paragraph, lines 1-4; and the last paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 4 through page 5, line 7.

Applicants’ representative appreciates the time the examiner spent during a telephonic interview discussing the pending Office action and outstanding issues.

All claim amendments are made without prejudice and do not represent an acquiescence in any ground of rejection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The examiner objected to claims 7, 14, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 7, 14 and 17 as suggested by the examiner. Therefore it is submitted that the objections to claim 7, 14, and 17 be removed and that claims 7, 14, and 17 are now allowable.

DOCKET NO.: TIBO-0010
Application No.: 09/633,232
Office Action Dated: November 3, 2003

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Griffiths et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,016). Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16 were canceled. Applicants have amended claim 17 for improved clarity and consistency of claim language therefore the examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17 under 37 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12,-13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Griffiths et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,016). Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12,-13 and 15-16. Therefore the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, 12,-13 and 15-16 has been mooted by cancellation of the claims.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 36-38 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of claims 7, 14, and 17. Applicants have amended claim 7, 14, 17 and 36. Therefore the objection of claims 36-38 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 has been mooted by amendment to claims 7, 14, 17, and 36. The examiner indicated during the telephonic interview that these claim amendments obviated the 37 C.F.R. §1.75 objection. It is now submitted that the objection to claims 36-38 should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (206) 332-1380.

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Andrew T. Serafini
Registration No. **41,303**

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439